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Glomar Explorer Conversion Backed
WASHINGTON, April 11 (AP)—It is economically feasible to convert the Glomar Explorer into a scientific deep sea drilling ship, a study released today says. The \$75,000 study sponsored by the National Science Foundation says the once-secret Central Intelligence Agency vessel, built to scoop up a sunken Soviet submarine, could drill deeper into the ocean bottom than any other ship.

It would cost from \$33.61 million to \$52.31 million to convert the ship for drilling, depending upon which of three alternative plans was followed, the study said.

Construction of a new ship capable of matching the Glomar Explorer's performance would cost \$100 million, the report estimated.

The deep-sea vessel was built for the Simma Corporation, a holding company of the late Howard R. Hughes, purportedly to mine mineral deposits from the ocean floor. But the ship actually was built for the C.I.A.